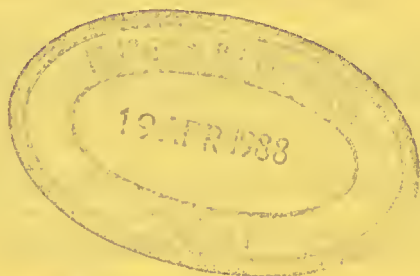


VOL. 18 NO. 2



APRIL 1988

# VICTORIAN ENTOMOLOGIST



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News Bulletin of  
The ENTOMOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY of VICTORIA

# THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA



## Membership

Any person with an interest in entomology shall be eligible for Ordinary Membership. Members of the Society include professional, amateur and student entomologists, all of whom receive the Society's News Bulletin, the Victorian Entomologist.

## Objectives

The aims of the Society are :

- (a) to stimulate the scientific study and discussion of all aspects of entomology,
- (b) to gather, disseminate and record knowledge of all identifiable Australian insect species,
- (c) to compile a comprehensive list of all Victorian insect species and
- (d) to bring together in a congenial but scientific atmosphere all persons interested in entomology.

## Meetings

The Society's meetings are held at Clunies Ross House, National Science Centre, 191 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria, at 8 pm on the third Friday of even months, with the possible exception of the December meeting which may be held earlier. Lectures by guest speakers or members are a feature of many meetings at which there is ample opportunity for informal discussion between members with similar interests. Forums are also conducted by members on their own particular interest so that others may participate in discussions.

## Annual Subscriptions

Ordinary Member .....	\$10.00
Country Member .....	\$ 8.00 (100 km + from GPO)
Student Member .....	\$ 5.00
Associate Member .....	\$ 2.00 (no magazine)

No additional fee is payable for overseas posting by surface mail of the News Bulletin. Associate Members, resident at the same address as, and being immediate relatives of an Ordinary Member, do not automatically receive a copy of the Society's publications but in all other respects rank as Ordinary Members.

## Contributions to the Victorian Entomologist

The Society welcomes contributions of articles, papers or notes pertaining to any aspect of entomology for publication in the News Bulletin. Contributions are not restricted to members but are invited from all who have an interest. Material submitted should be responsible and original. Statements and opinions expressed are the responsibility of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Society.

When contributions are typed it would be of great assistance if they are typed on A4 (International Quarto) paper, one and a half spaced with triple spacing between paragraphs and a margin of 3 cm.

## Advertising

The charge for advertising is \$5.00 per half page.

Cover illustration by W.N.B. Quick.

Cyria imperialis (Fabricius), Banksia Jewel Beetle (Buprestidae).

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING, 19 FEBRUARY 1988

A Vice-President, Dr R. Field, opened the meeting at 8.05 p.m.

Apologies: M. Le Souëf, D. & N. Stewart, K. Walker.

Present: M. Braby, G. & J. Burns, P. Carwardine, K. Clark, D. Crosby,  
M. & P. Coupar, M. Duncan, K. & L. Dunn, I. Faithfull, J. Field,  
V. Himmelreich, M. Hunting, P. Kelly, R. Mathews, T. New,  
J. Reid, J. & J. Ross, R. Vagi.

Minutes of the December meeting (Vic. Ent. 18: 1-2) were passed.  
(Kelly/Crosby).

R. Field then introduced the speaker, D. Crosby, to talk on 'Butterfly Conservation in Britain'. After a wide-ranging talk and considerable discussion, a vote of thanks was proposed by M. Hunting.

Correspondence. Detailed and received. (J. Field/Faithfull).

Treasurer's Report. G. Burns presented the audited report for 1987. Credit balances are \$2514.06 (General account, including \$120 for encouragement of junior entomologists) and \$1912.82 (Memorial Fund). There are at present 54 financial members.

Received (Carwardine/J. Field)

Editor's Report. I. Faithfull requested articles for forthcoming issues of the *Victorian Entomologist*.

Excursions. P. Carwardine outlined details of the Lake Mountain excursion to be held on 28 February.

General Business and exhibits.

- i) 1. Faithfull: a copy of Part 5 of The genera of beetles in South Australia by E.G. Matthews, price \$10.95 (available from the South Australian Museum, Adelaide).
- ii) M. Braby. Some old, historically significant specimens of Acrodipsas myrmecophila and Hypochrysops ignitus from the Burnley collections -labelled 'Ocean Grove, ca 1912, H. W. Davey', these may be the first specimens taken in Victoria (see paper by Waterhouse and Lyell, 1913, Vic. Nat. 29).
- iii) M. Coupar. An owlfly (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae) from Warrandyte. T. New commented that members of this family are not common in the outer Melbourne area, and commented on the resemblance of owlflies and dragonflies as strong fast-flying aerial predators. Owlflies always have long clubbed antennae, which easily distinguishes them from dragonflies.
- iv) T. New : leaflets/enrolment forms for the Australian Entomological Society meeting to be held in Brisbane in May.
- v) J. Burns : a coloured computer printout of a picture of a Jewel beetle, with details of the technique employed.
- vi) J. Reid : leaflets from the Indigenous Fauna and Flora Association.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING, 18 MARCH 1988

The President opened the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

Apologies: I. Faithfull, R. & J. Field.

Present: M. Braby, G. & J. Burns, P. Carwardine, D. Crosby, M. Hunting, P. Kelly, T. New.

Minutes of the November Council meeting (Vic. Ent. 17: 99-100) passed.  
(Crosby/G. Burns)

Correspondence. Detailed and tallied. Discussion held over two items.

(1) Letter from Victorian Land Protection Association, requesting annual contribution of \$30 for membership. Resolved (Crosby/J. Burns) that the Society does not take financial membership but that reaffirm our earlier note of support in principle for VLPA activities. Carried. (2) Inclusion of an advertising circular from E.J. Brill as a supplement/inclusion to the next Victorian Entomologist. Agreed to do this, with costs being billed to Brill.

Treasurer's Report. G. Burns reported credit balances of \$2662.85 (general acct.) and \$2162.01 (Le Souëf Memorial Fund). Agreed (1) to transfer \$150 from Memorial Fund to the Junior Encouragement Fund, which now total \$270 (New/Carwardine), and (2) to re-invest in SEC lands, as at present.

There are at present 66 financial members.

Editor's Report. Deferred.

Excursion Report. P. Carwardine reported briefly on the Lake Mountain excursion.

General Business.

- (i) Program. Ideas for program until August were discussed.
- (ii) Le Souëf Memorial Award. Diploma to be sent to 1987 winner, and publicity for 1988 award initiated.
- (iii) Junior Entomologists Encouragement Fund. Discussions held over possible ways to use this fund. K. Walker to contact Children's Museum over possible donation of displays or books.
- (iv) Subscriptions. G. Burns foreshadowed the possible need for an increase in subscriptions in 1989. Deferred until later this year, for fuller discussion.
- (v) Incorporation and Revision of Society Constitution. O. Crosby tabled a draft revised constitution which satisfies the requirements for Incorporation of the Society, and explained this at length. After considerable discussion of this and relevant procedures, together with small amendments, it was agreed to prepare a final draft for publication. The President thanked David Crosby for the work he had put in on this difficult matter.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

# HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

## Statomont of Recoipts and Payments - Year Ending 31 Deccombor 1987

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Subscriptions	795.00	Magazine Copying	296.07
Donations (Junior Encouragement)	120.00	Postal Registration	40.00
Advertising in Magazino	5.00	Postago (Magazine)	183.23
Salo Lepidoptora Maps	72.00	Postago (Editor)	28.77
Interest General A/C	25.43	Photocopying (Editor)	18.25
Interest Term Deposits	197.17	Printing	5.50
Ono T.New B/fly Consor- vation Book	9.00	Envelopes	95.52
		Postago (Treasurer)	3.70
		Mooting Facilities	91.00
		Use of Projector	37.00
		Entertaining Speakers	45.00
		Christmas Party	100.00
		Affiliation Aust.Ent.Soc.	30.00
		Postage & Envelopes B/fly Maps	12.53
		Flowers to Mary Le Souef	33.50
		Ono T.New B/fly Consor- vation Book	9.00
		FID	.37
		BADT	4.65
Credit Balance B/F	686.86	Credit Balance Gen. A/C	876.37
	1910.46		1910.46

## Statomont of Assots

Credit Balance Gen. A/C	876.37
Term Deposits	1500.00
14 Copies Lepidoptora Maps	140.00
	2516.37

## J.C. Le Souef Memorial Fund

## Statement of Receipts and Payments - Year Ending 31 Deccombor 1987

Intorost SEC Bonds	196.76	FID	.06
Intorost Passbook	9.93		
Credit Balance B/F	306.19	Credit Balance Passbook	512.82
	512.88		512.88

## Statement of Assots

Credit Balance Passbook	512.82
SEC Power Bonds	1400.00
	1912.82

## BIRDS ATTACKING BUTTERFLIES

D.F. Crosby, 74 Gipps Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002

When cataloguing my collection recently I noticed obvious examples of beak marks on particular butterflies, although the wings themselves were still intact. I am sure most collectors will have noticed similar specimens, and, if they were badly damaged, probably discarded them. As far as I have been able to determine bird predation has not received much attention in the literature so such specimens should be kept for future reference.

The specimens I have are as follows:

<u>Heteronympha penelope alope</u>	1	Lorne, V. 5 Mar 1950
<u>Heteronympha penelope sterope</u>	1	Mt Disappointment, V. 28 Feb 82
<u>Heteronympha cordace cordace</u>	1	Buangor Ra., V. 17 Jan 1954
<u>Oreixenica kershawi kanunda</u>	1	Mt Richmond, V. 14 Jan 1982
<u>Oreixenica lathoniella horcous</u>	1	Mt Buller, V. 14 Mar 1954

These specimens have their wings intact but have very clear beak marks on them; however triangular "clips" and other tears can sometimes be made by birds, but be less obvious. It is interesting that the five specimens are all satyrids, dark, and obvious on the wing, and not fast fliers, apart from H. penelope. Surely there must be records of similar specimens in the other families? I would be interested to hear of them. Similarly, records of actual birds (preferably identified) attacking butterflies must have been made too.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY APPEAL

Urban development at Eltham could wipe out the most significant remaining colonies of this rare butterfly unless the land on which it is found is purchased. Readers wishing to contribute should send donations (which are tax deductible) to:

Victoria Conservation Trust,  
Butterfly Appeal,  
c/o ANZ Bank,  
950 Main Road,  
ELTHAM, Vic. 3095

# BUTTERFLIES IN THE LERDERBERG FOREST PARK

D.F. Crosby, 74 Gipps Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002

For some years I had been intrigued by the distribution of the skipper butterfly Hesperilla crypsargyra lesouefi which is recorded from the Grampians (Mt William) and Gippsland (Licola and Valencia Ck). The foodplant of this butterfly is Gahnia microstachya and I wondered whether the Herbarium may have distribution records for this plant at localities other than those already known for the butterfly. I discovered that they did, of all places in the Lerderberg Gorge area, 15 km north of Bacchus Marsh, not far from Melbourne.

Fortunately I was able to track down the botanist responsible for this record and determine approximately where the plants were located. I visited the park on 2 December 1978 and after a fairly lengthy search, found the plant colonies. I subsequently revisited the park on 29 December 1978 and 26 November 1981 but a careful search of all the plants failed to produce any H. crypsargyra larvae or pupae.

Other areas of the park were investigated on each visit and the following list indicates the butterflies recorded.

<u>Trapezites eliona</u>	2 males 29 Dec 1978
<u>Trapezites phigaleides</u>	2 males 29 Dec 1978
<u>Trapezites phigalia phigalia</u>	1 worn male 2 Dec 1978
<u>Hesperilla donnysa patmos</u>	Larvae and pupae. See notes below
<u>Delias harpalyce</u>	Several males 26 Nov 1981
<u>Anaphaeis java teutonia</u>	Males and females common 2 Dec 1978 & 26 Nov 1981
<u>Heteronympha merepe merepe</u>	1 male 26 Nov 1981
<u>Ogyris elane ocela</u>	Several 2 Dec 1978
<u>Candalides hyacinthinus hyacinthinus</u>	3 males 2 Dec 1978, 2 males 26 Nov 1981
<u>Neelucia agricola agricola</u>	Several 2 Dec 1978, 1 male 26 Nov 1981
<u>Theclinosthes serpentata serpentata</u>	Few 2 Dec 1978
<u>Zizina labradus labradus</u>	Few 26 Nov 1981

In searching the plants of Gahnia microstachya a few large Hesperilla-type larvae were found on 2 December 1978. These were too large to be H. crypsargyra and pupated without further food. Two males of H. dennysa patmos were bred from the pupae on 12 December 1978. On the 29 December 1978 visit one pupa of H. d. patmos was found and a female emerged on 17 January 1979. On the third visit one pupa was found and this produced a male on 5 December 1981. These records provide a hitherto unrecorded food plant for the butterfly together with a new locality distribution.

The occurrence of G. microstachya in the Lorderderg Park is interesting as it is only a very small colony of plants in two areas of less than half a hectare each. The plants are in a dry area at a relatively lower altitude than those elsewhere associated with the colonies of H. crypsargyra (the precise altitudes were not recorded).

The Lorderderg Park appears to be divided botanically into two clearly separate areas. The northern section is moist, relatively flat, although elevated, with stringybark and peppermint associations of 15-30 m height. Gahnia sieberiana occurs in this section but no skippers were found on it.

The southern section is dry, with steep well drained slopes. The trees are stunted and do not exceed 15 m. The G. microstachya plants occur in this association. In an area approximately where the two forest types meet a small patch of Gahnia radula was found. This is the usual Victorian foodplant for H. dennysa patmos and several shortors typical of this species were noted. In one a pupa was found on 2 December 1978 which produced a normal female on 12 December. From the small number of specimens obtained there appeared to be no consistent differences in markings attributable to the different foodplants.

A NEW BUTTERFLY RECORD FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
AND A LIST OF SPECIES FROM NORTHERN EYRE PENINSULA

Miko Moore, Box 674, Waikerio, South Australia, 5330

The Botonolla Range is a small group of low rocky spinifex covered hills running approximately north-south and about 30 km NNE of Kimba. Kimba itself is near the centre of Eyre Peninsula and about 160 km SW of Port Augusta. The land to the west and south of the range has been cleared for wheat farming. To the north and east is the Lake Gilles-Wilcherry pastoral property, whose mallee covered land merges into the Lake Gilles Conservation Park. During the period 6-11 October 1987 my family camped on a farm on the western side of the hills.

Closely to our campsite a car track and then a goat track climbed a low saddle in the range. We traversed this track at least once each day and on two occasions travelled about 20 km north to Wilcherry station. On the last full day of our stay, the 10th, whilst on the eastern side of the range at the foot of the hills, my son Gregory saw a small skipper resting on bare ground. Its camouflage was excellent and at a range of less than 1 m I still could not detect it, locating it only when it flew. After a short chase, involving more alighting on bare ground, the skipper was netted. It has been identified as a female Croitoria aronaria Edwards in reasonable condition, a species known previously only from the Northern Territory in the vicinity of Alice Springs, some 1100 km to the north of this area. The specimen has been lodged in the South Australian Museum.

Atkins and Miller (1987) record the food plant of this species as Enteropogon (Chloris) acicularis (Lindl.) Lazar., family Poaceae. The distribution of E. acicularis in South Australia is wide, and includes Eyre Peninsula (Jossop, 1984).

By South Australian mallee standards the days were well spent, other species netted being:

Notasyngha trimaculata trimaculata

Euroma swilax

Nacaduba biocellata biocellata

Theclinosthes miskini miskini

Neolucia agricola agricola

Candalides honthi heathi

Candalidos hyacinthinus simplex

Ogyris amaryllis meridionalis

Ogyris barnardi delphis

Seen, but not collected:

Danaus plexippus plexippus

Zizina labradus labradus

Junonia villida calybe

Vanessa kershawi

The record of Ogyris barnardi delphis is of interest in that it extends the known range of this subspecies by some 100 km.

#### Acknowledgements

I thank Mr R.H. Fisher for aiding in the identification of the Croitana skipper, for his examination of my other material and for the interest and encouragement he has shown me in the past.

#### References

Atkins, A. and Miller, C.G., 1987. The life history of Croitana arenaria Edwards, 1979 (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae: Trapezitinae). Aust. ent. Mag. 14(4,5):73-75.

Jessop, J.P., 1984. A List of the Vascular Plants of South Australia. Second Edition. Botanic Gardens, State Herbarium and Department of Environment and Planning, Adelaide.

## BUPRESTIDAE

Joy and Gordon Burns, 3 Inglis Street, Mornington, Vic., 3931

The Buprestidae, commonly referred to as "Jewel Beetles", are well represented in Australia, with about 800 species described by 1970 (Britton, 1970). There have been substantial additions to the tally since then. S. Barker working on a revision of the sub-genus Castiarina has described 82 new species and B. Lovoy in his revision of the Molobasis has added many more so the figure would now be as high as 1,000. The Stigmmodora which includes the sub-genera Themognatha and Castiarina account for something like 500 species and are endemic to Australia. The next two largest genera are the Molobasis and Cisseis with around 200 species between them, followed by Astracis with 42 species.

As the name suggests, the Jewel Beetles are probably the most colourful of all beetles. Although they show great variation of size and colour, they are all much the same shape. The prothorax is closely joined to the rest of the body and the head fits neatly, so that the beetle is a compact narrow oval shape. Besides the shape, they can be recognized by a transverse metasternal suture and the partly fused first two abdominal sternites. The larvae are fleshy, elongate grubs with small heads and very broad flattened prothorax and are without legs. They are found mostly under the bark or in the roots of living trees and shrubs, although a few form galls. The adults are very active in hot weather and fly readily in sunlight. They are usually found on nectar bearing flowers, such as Eucalyptus, Angophora, Leptospermum, Baeckia, Calytrix, etc.

Stigmmodora sexplagiata, a beetle found throughout Victoria and up the east coast is often found on Leptospermum as are many of the "stigs". Dillwynia is a possible host plant of species of the genus Ethon. Angophora is very good for Jewel Beetles around the Sydney area, while Grevillea in the Big Desert attracts Stigmmodora crenata and S. vittata.

Some species are found on logs and on the leaves of trees, shrubs and rushes, whilst one, Merimna atrata, a dull black beetle about an inch long (25.4mm), is attracted to the hot ashes of bush and camp fires and is commonly known as the fire beetle. It is the only Jewel Beetle that commonly comes to light. Cisseis leucostica is usually found on the leaves of Acacia while Alcinous nodosus, a small buprestid about 6 mm long, is found on the leaves of wild raspberry (Rubus). There are only two species in this genus. Cyria australis is a beautiful black, shiny insect about 3 cm long found on coastal Banksia in Queensland.

Astraeus is an interesting genus. Its members have a unique spring mechanism that enables them to flick open the forewings and spring suddenly up to 2 m away.

Despite the wide occurrence of some buprestids, very little is known about their biology. The numbers of individuals vary from season to season; one species in a particular area may be rare or absent one year but be common the next season.

Julidomorpha bakewelli and Stigmodera heros are two of the largest Australian Jewel beetles, with bakewelli reaching 5 cm and more. The females are usually found in the upper branches of a mallee or scrub, while the males fly freely. S. heros is found on mallee flower in the heat of summer. S. mitchelli is another lover of mallee flower and may be found covered in pollen, showing that the Jewel beetles play a big part in pollination.

The sub-genus Castiarina are, in most cases, smaller beetles than the Themognatha, and it contains nearly 400 species. S. australasiae is a common species. S. castelnaudi is commonly found feeding on the flowers of Baeckea and Leptospermum. S. crenata and S. decemmaculata are common in the deserts and pallidiventris is another small desert species. S. simulata and S. malleecana are both found in mallee areas.

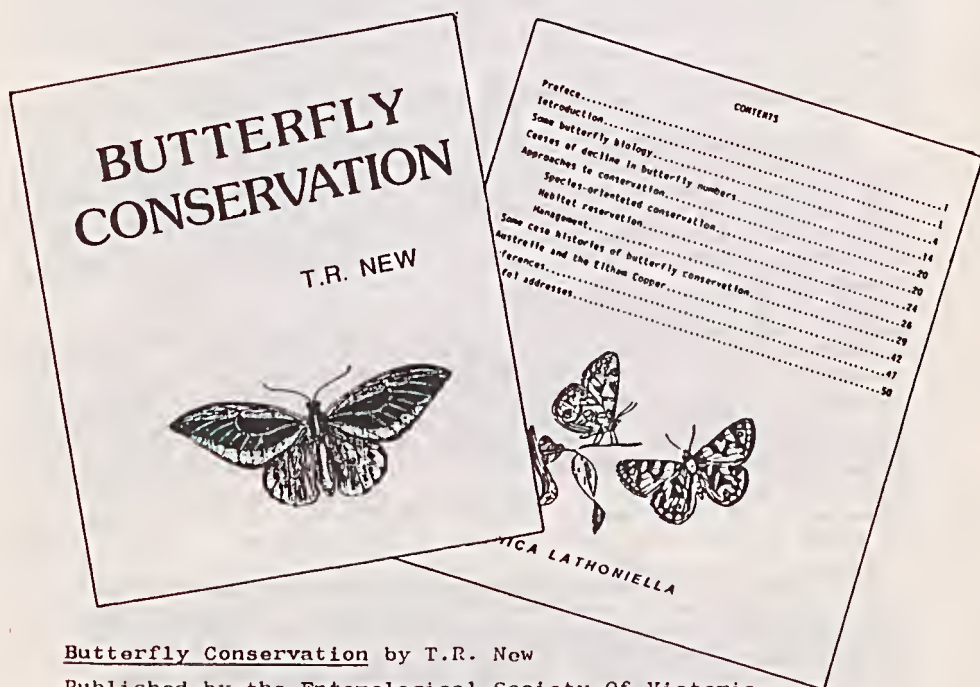
Stigmodera dimidiata is a high country species, found in such areas as Mt Buffalo and Mt Rotham. Stigmodera marginicollis

is rather a rare species that we have only seen at Inglewood. S. viridolinea is a species from the mallee only recently named. Some of the rare species are very rare indeed. One unnamed Western Australian species we have photographed is represented by only 3 specimens.

#### Reference

Britton, E.B., 1970. Coleoptera. Chapter 30 in CSIRO,  
The Insects of Australia. Melbourne University Press

This is an edited version of the talk given by Joy Burns, with the assistance of Gordon Burns, at the June 1987 meeting of the Entomological Society of Victoria.



Butterfly Conservation by T.R. New

Published by the Entomological Society Of Victoria

You can obtain your copy for \$4.00 by writing to Dr. New,  
Dept. Of Zoology, LaTrobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, 3083

## THE BIG DESERT - RED BLUFF AND THE BORDER TRACK

3 TO 7 NOVEMBER 1984. PART 1.

Ian Faithfull, 83 Easey Street, Collingwood, Victoria, 3066

The Big Desert is a complex mosaic of mallee eucalypts, heath scrub, porcupine grass and scrub pine woodland on sandy, quaternary dunefields, interspersed with occasional low sandstone hills and mesas covered in broombrush and groups of Brown Stringybarks or patches of Yellow Gum. For naturalists schooled in the paddocks and forests of the Dividing Range it is very different and very fascinating and very mysterious.

As a south east coasters I was eager for a broader experience of the inland. I had seen the Big Desert in 1966 before the National Park was declared and even had a few old specimens which had survived the ravages of Anthrenus beetles and general neglect. An opportunity to travel into the Big Desert with lots of support came with the commencement of a survey of the Big Desert Wilderness area on behalf of the National Parks Service by the Mammal Survey Group of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. I applied for, and was granted, my first Research Permit for insect study in the reserve just in time for the first trip to the south western corner of the Desert.

Four hundred road kilometres from Melbourne takes one to the fringes of the Big Desert and at lunchtime on 3 November 1984 my survey was christened: Site 1, 18 km west of the sleepy silo village of Yanac, the road to Telepoa Downs. My brother Tony, a botanist, with a keen eye for insects soon had the billy on the boil. A field to the west contained hundreds of grass trees, Xanthorrhoea australis, with low bushes of regrowth mallee, and looked promising. Sheep droppings on the road yielded the little dung beetle Onthophagus blackwoodensis before we hurriedly moved on further to the west and then to the north, to a point about 2.3 km SSW of Buckhorst homestead. Here we turned west again onto a track of pure white sand and bravely drove the 5.5 km, at rather too fast a pace, to the South Australian border. This was the rendezvous point. Any two wheel drive vehicles, such as ours, which had negotiated the initial sand drifts and thumping sand holes, would be left here. An assortment of Landrovers, Subarus and Toyotas would be used to ferry us over the last section of the journey.

However the absence of anyone else here allowed us time for a poke around. I disturbed a specimen of the ubiquitous Old Lady Moth, Dasypodia selenophora, which had been hiding amongst the Mallee roots piled up along the southern side of the track. A few Vanessa kershawi flitted about. Flowering Leptospermum myrsinoides, Heath Tea-tree, yielded a single specimen of the common jewel beetle Stigmodera vittata. The skeleton of a specimen of Agasthenes westwoodi (Tonobriionidae) was found on the ground. Fresh dung, probably of sheep, had

been progressively tackled by dung beetles. Droppings at one end of the series along the fenceline looked untouched while others had been completely broken up and buried in the sand. About 20 O. blackwoodensis were seen in a single dropping. This was the only species of Scarabaeinae expected in the Big Desert and so far the only one actually recorded. Two species of Aphodiinae, smaller dung beetles, were obtained here also: Aphodius lividus, an introduced species recorded from the north west of Victoria by Goudie (1919) and A. ambiguus (determined by E.B. Britten, 1985).

The Border Track, which is actually in South Australia, runs along beside a high, chicken wire fence, intended I believe to stop the passage of the dingo, but now no longer maintained. The fence is the real border between the two states. The track itself is popular with off-road-vehicle enthusiasts so is usually thick with churned up sand. A dune buggy is more appropriate for moving along it than mere conventional four-wheel-drive vehicles. Our kind ferryman, who had already made camp at the Red Bluff, had noticed an old casualty of the motor heads just beside the track, so with assistance now at hand we stepped to turn over the car body. Are snakes ever expected? That was what we were after and that was what we found. A 2 metre Brown Snake hesitated for a moment before it slithered between my legs. The Big Desert is rich in reptiles, and this one was promptly captured and bagged for later examination.

A 10 km haul north along the Border Track and a shorter section of winding track to the south east brings one to the Red Bluff campsite in the Red Bluff Nature Reserve, then managed by Fisheries and Wildlife Service. Red Bluff itself is a large and prominent crescent shaped outcrop of red sandstone with a low saddle between the highest south Bluff and the longer ridge leading WNW. The well used campsite was nestled slightly to the west of the main Bluff amongst some Brown Stringybark, Eucalyptus baxteri, trees.

The first night was cool, with a freshening wind but I ventured out with a torch to see what insects were active. Among those seen were Neocarenum elongatum, a 2.5 cm black, fessorial beetle (and a member of the Carabidae) another ground beetle Scaraphitos sp. (probably hirtipes) which like Neocarenum is common in the Big Desert, and a third species of large nocturnal Carabid, Parroa apicalis. All three are flightless (Moore, Weir and Pyke (1987)).

To be continued.

#### References

- Goudie, 1919. Notes on the Coleoptera of north-western Victoria. Part VII. Victorian Naturalist 36:117-20
- Moore, B.P., Weir, T.A. and Pyke, J.E., Carabidae in Zoological Catalogue of Australia Volume 4. Coleoptera: Archostemata, Myxophaga and Adephaga. Bureau of Flora and Fauna, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

### Greens Bush

Conservationists raised the required \$1.3 million to buy 170 ha of the area which will link three separate sections of the Nepean State Park but another 230 ha will be subdivided with severe restrictions on development. But according to Bob McDonald the Government could have about twice the area for the same money last year. The part not bought was one of the most important natural bushlands. The Greens are reported to have bulldozed and ploughed heathland to destroy its conservation value and donations have been put into general revenue.

Indigenotes No. 11, March 1988 (Indigenous Flora & Fauna Assoc.) Peter Schumpter and Loith Young, Kirner denies paying too much for land. The Age 1 Feb. 1988

Jennifer Conley, \$1.3 million appeal helps to save Peninsula bush. The Age 22 Jan 1988

### Nature Conservation in Victoria: Study Report

Released last year, this 400 page, two volume Study Report by Doug Frood and Malcolm Calder, School of Botany, University of Melbourne, to the Victorian National Parks Association, looks at flora, fauna, waterways and land areas, policy development and implementation and recommendations for future action. The report draws together information and research from many sources and includes maps and a 4700 title bibliography. Those volumes are essentially resource documents of a technical nature which will be useful to managers and practising conservationists.

A popularised book based on the information in the Study Report will be published this year. Cost for the set is \$30.00 from the VNPA, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, 3000.

## BUTTERFLIES AND MYTHOLOGY NO. 5

- aganippe - a sacred fountain
- penelope - daughter of King Icarius

- Joan Brown

## BOOK REVIEW

### The Butterfly Gardener

by Miriam Rothschild and Clive Farroll

Michael Joseph Ltd./Rainbird Publishing, London, 1985  
128 pp. + 8 coloured plates and numerous text figures

I recently received this soft covered edition of the book originally printed in hard cover form in 1983. If you are interested in general butterfly reading you will enjoy this book despite its English orientation.

The first section is entitled "The Outdoor Butterfly Garden" and is written by Miriam Rothschild. The overall theme is how to attract and keep butterflies in the domestic garden. In her usual enchanting way Miriam Rothschild describes her experiences with butterflies in the field as an ardent conservationist, and how, with only a small block of (English) land, a natural environment can be created with wild flowers, grasses and garden plants to attract butterflies. Some may even be enticed to stay and breed after feeding on the flowers including the ubiquitous Buddleia. The results, season by season, are outlined and the visits by particular species noted. Various types of habitat are mentioned - the gravel path, the hayfield, the grass sward, and how to design and establish a butterfly garden.

The second section, entitled "The Indoor Butterfly Garden", is written by Clive Farroll, famous in England for the four large butterfly farms which he owns. With this experience he tells how to set up a small breeding facility in a standard glasshouse, with simple, inexpensive equipment. Next he explains how to feed the adults using real flowers and artificial nectar. Successful mating and breeding are then dealt with, in detail, mainly for some easily bred common tropical species, for which the food plants are not difficult to obtain. Pests, and other problems, are then covered at length, together with some general breeding tips. Six appendices list native butterflies (U.K.), suitable tropical butterflies, cultivation of butterfly flowers, nectar sources, egg sterilization and U.K. suppliers.

Although small, this book is full of valuable information for anyone wanting to breed butterflies notwithstanding the volume of data referring to mainly native U.K. insects and plants.

The local price (soft cover) is about \$16.

D.F. Crosby

## THE VICTORIAN ENTOMOLOGIST : A RESUME

This is the 100th issue of the Victorian Entomologist, a fact that only the editor would note, if he didn't so directly bring it to your attention. It is a convenient occasion to present the table I have compiled of the editors in the past and the issues they produced and to provide a brief summary of the history of the magazine, which may be of interest to newer members of the Society and perhaps of benefit to a future historian.

Wings and Stings was the original periodical publication of the Society and 14 issues of it appeared between August 1965 and August 1971. Moulds (1977) provided details of the publication dates and the number of pages in each issue. Although wonderfully titled this journal was replaced in an effort to encourage members to contribute their observations, and to increase membership. (Beattie, 1973). I have never seen an issue of Wings and Stings and its absence from the catalogue of the State Library of Victoria, and therefore presumably from the Library's collection, seems cause for concern. The contents of Wings and Stings were included in the cumulative index to the Victorian Entomologist published in April 1980.

The first issue of the Vic. Ent., Journal of the Entomological Society of Victoria, appeared in October 1971, the name and format following the suggestion of Sue Beattie. The first volume had only two numbers with 1(2) being the December 1971 issue.

An Editorial Committee which included Charles McCubbin, Sue Beattie, Ray Besserdin, Peter Williams, Anthony Bishop and John Wainer was involved with the first few issues and this Committee transformed into a Publications Committee which stabilised in 1972. John Barnes, the first Editor (or so he was identified in Vol.1(1)) had printed and edited Wings and Stings (Bishop, 1973; Beattie, 1973).

An early problem was the adequate and timely preparation of stencils for printing, which was a wet duplicator process. As of August 1974 the printing was done by the National Museum (now the Museum of Victoria) (Bishop, 1974). Shortage of material was a continual editorial complaint, and the quality of the Journal fluctuated markedly.

From its inception to Vol. 8(6) the Journal was a large format (approximately 205 x 260 mm) publication with blue, grey or yellow card covers, stapled on the edge from front to back. New (1979) described the production process in place in 1977-8: the Editor typed the stencils, which were posted to LaTrobe University for printing, collation and stapling. Completed Journals were taken to the Museum for enveloping and posting by Andrew Calder. Reliance to such a large extent on voluntary labour, especially for the printing, had long been considered unsatisfactory, and eventually led to a change in 1979.

Under a special arrangement, apparently organised by J.C. Le Souëf, Vol. 9(1) onwards were printed at Clunies Ross House.

The change of printers brought with it a change in format with the magazine taking up an appearance similar to that which it has today, that is, half A4 size with a yellow paper cover and centre stapling. Photocopying was the new printing process, enabling the reproduction of photographs.

Problems related to the lack of refereeing and of published articles being abstracted led in 1983-4 to the Journal being retitled News Bulletin. This move led to some dissatisfaction in the Society and took effect with Vol. 15(1). Which brings us to my own period as Honorary Editor.

Editor	Issues	Dates	No.
John Barnes	1(1)	Oct 1971	1
Ray Bessordin	1(2)-2(3)	Dec 1971-Jun 1972	4
A.D. (Tony) Bishop	2(4)-4(3)	Aug 1972-Jun 1974	12
Ray Bessordin	4(4)	Aug 1974	1
Charles McCubbin (Assistant)	4(5)	Oct 1974	1
Charles McCubbin (Acting)	4(6)	Dec 1974	1
W.N.B. (Nigel) Quick (Acting)			
Charles McCubbin (Assistant)			
John Caffin	5(1)-5(3)	Feb 1975-Jun 1975	3
Charles McCubbin (Assistant)			
John Caffin	5(4)-6(1)	Aug 1975-Feb 1976	4
W.N.B. Quick (Assistant)			
John Caffin	6(2)-6(3)	Apr 1976-Jun 1976	2
Ray G. McMahon	6(4)-7(2)	Aug 1976-Apr 1977	5
W.N.B. Quick	7(3)	Jun 1977	1
Andrew A. Calder	7(4)-8(3)	Aug 1977-Jun 1978	6
J.C. (Zoo) Le Souëf	8(4)-12(2)	Aug 1978-Apr 1982	23
Ken L. Walker	12(3)-14(5)	Jun 1982-Oct 1984	15
Ian Faithfull	14(6)-18(2)	Dec 1984-Apr 1988	21

## References

- Beattie, Susan, 1973. History of the Entomological Society. Part 2. Victorian Entomologist 3(5):6-8
- Bishop, A.D., 1973. Editorial. Victorian Entomologist 3(1):1
- Bishop, A.D., 1974. The retiring Editor's report. Victorian Entomologist 4(4):45-6
- Moulds, M.S., 1977. Bibliography of the Australian Butterflies (Lepidoptera:Hesperoidea and Papilionoidea) 1773-1973. Australian Entomological Press
- New, T., 1979. Presidential comment on the rise in subscriptions. Victorian Entomologist 9(1):3-4

# RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Invertebrate Taxonomy is an important new journal for Australian entomologists published by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). It began publication last year, taking over the role formerly carried out by the Australian Journal of Zoology Supplementary Series which has now ceased publication. Individual issues of Invertebrate Taxonomy can be purchased for \$25.00 from CSIRO Publications Sales, 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne, 3002. Volume 1 number 1 was published in February, numbers 2,3 and 4 in May, number 5 in August and number 6 late in 1987. Here is a summary of the contents of this first volume (insect material only):

Martin Bachr, The Australian species of the carabid genus Perileptus (Coleoptera:Carabidae:Trechinae). 1(1):1-16.  
3 new species from northern Australia.

C.L. Bellamy, A revision of the genus Synochocora Doyrille (Coleoptera:Buprestidae:Agriinae). 1(1):17-34. 10 species, 5 new.

Margaret L. Debenham, The biting midge genus Forcipomyia (Diptera:Ceratopogonidae) in the Australasian region (exclusive of New Zealand. I. Introduction, key to subgenera, and the Thyridomyia and Trichehelea groups of genera. 1(1): 35-119; II. Warmkea and the Caleforcipomyia group of subgenera. 1(2):167-199; III. The subgenera Forcipomyia s.s. and Lepidehelea. 1(3):269-350; IV. The subgenera allied to Forcipomyia s.s. and Lepidehelea, and the interrelationships and biogeography of the subgenera of Forcipomyia. 1(6):631-684

G.A. Williams, A revision of the genus Nascioides Korromans (Coleoptera:Buprestidae). 1(2):121-145. Key and figures to 19 spp., 8 new spp described.

Daniel J. Bickel, Kewmungia (Diptera:Delichopodidae), a new genus from Australia. 1(2):146-154

Ian R. Beck, The Australian species of Ephydrella and Setacora (Diptera:Ephydriidae). 1(2):155-166

Ebbe S. Nielsen, The recently discovered primitive (non-Ditrysian) family Palaeophatidae (Lepidoptera) in Australia. 1(2):201-256

T.R. New, The Neureptora (Insecta) of Norfolk Island. 1(3):257-268

G. Daniels, A revision of the Neoaratus Ricarde, with the description of six allied new genera from the Australian region (Diptera:Asilidae:Asilini). 1(5):473-592

J.W. Ismay, Pseudogaurax (Diptera:Chloropidae) from the Oriental and Australasian regions. 1(6):593-602

B. John, D.C.F. Rentz and N. Contreras, Extensive chromosome variation in the stick insect genus Sipyloidea Brunner von Wattenwyl (Phyllidae:Necrosiinae) within Australia, and descriptions of three new species. 1(6): 603-630

E.B. Britton, A revision of the Australian chafers (Coleoptera:Scarabaeidae:Melolonthinae). Volume 5. Tribes Scitalini and Comophorini. 1(6):685-799

Janet Durno, Jumping louse hits 'wonder tree'. New Scientist 12 Nov., 1987, p.31. The leucaena tree, touted as a tropical saviour, is being devastated by the psyllid Heteropsylla albana.

Paul Simons, Hives of industry. Now Sci. 12 Nov., 1987 pp.55-9. Beekeeping in the third world.

Nests nourish trees. New Scientist 26 Nov. 1987, p.33. Ant nests at the bases of palm leaves soak up water and nutrients (Biotropica 18:337).

Safe sex for male mantises. New Scientist 3 Dec. 1987, p.34. Study of the Chinese mantis Tenodera aridifolia sinensis show that females eat males when starved but only rarely while in copulation.

Prue Innes, Captain refuses to sail after weevils found in peas. The Age, 8 Mar 1988. Court case involving Danish owned ship at Portland, Victoria.

Michael P. Schwarz, Notes on co-founded nests in three species of social bees in the genus Exoneura (Hymenoptera:Anthophoridae). Victorian Naturalist 105(1):212-5 (sic). Most new nests of these bees are inhabited by more than one female, the females being closely related. Findings bear on questions of the evolution of social behaviour.

Michael F. Braby, The Eltham Copper. Habitat Doc. 1987, pp.16-18 Brief summary. Photos by Mike and Pat Coupar. Dig deep for the appeal.

Graeme O'Neill, In Canberra, they had a summer day with no flies. No bulldust. The Age 20 Feb, p.3. The CSIRO dung beetle program seems to have led to the current population crashes of the bush-fly. Dr Marina Tyndale-Biscoe of the CSIRO.

Toby Darvall, CSIRO sets its ultimato flytrap. The Age 25 Feb, p.16. On 24 Feb. 100,000 genetically engineered flies were released on Badger Island, Bass Strait, in an effort to eliminate the sheep blowfly.

## ON THE GRAPEVINE

Michael Draby managed to find Hypochrysops delicia colonies in the Gresswell Forest and on Gresswell Hill. He reports that collecting in his local area (Eltham-Research-Kangaroo Ground) is becoming a bit of a problem. Everyone he meets thinks he is out to capture Eltham Copper butterflies (Michael Draby? No!) and everyone seems to be aware of the butterfly's existence. While collecting in favourite haunts around Kangaroo Ground he has been accused of causing the Copper's decline. You have our sympathies Mike.

Lots of new members! Mike Moore of Waikerio, South Australia, is one of these. Read of his exploits elsewhere in this issue. Also we welcome Fabian Douglas of the fabulous Rainbow in the Mallee, Val Bimmelrich of Seville East and John Reid of Heathmont. Fabian is interested in beetles and butterflies. John Reid is an Education Officer with the Victorian Association for Environmental Education. A further new member is Dr Ebbe Neilsen, a professional lepidopterist with CSIRO Canberra.

Those who missed out on the Lake Mountain excursion missed a good day. Once over the Divide the clouds were gone and insects were abundant. Would members who attended please send their notes to the Excursions Secretary for his report and their photos to me please (so that the most embarrassing one can be printed in these pages of course).

Sorry there is so little news. Please send in a few short notes for the next issue. I've had to be content to watch my pet cucujid beetle larva attacking the Sitophilus weevils from the Burnley colony that it seems to accept as food.

STILL AVAILABLE

'PRELIMINARY DISTRIBUTION MAPS OF BUTTERFLIES IN VICTORIA'

Published by the Entomological Society of Victoria

This is the first major publication resulting from the Society's ENTRECS Project. The book consists of 108 species maps totalling 55 pages, 5 pp. of spare maps, a master map showing the grid system used, an introduction of 2 pp. and a list of contributors. It is spiral bound so opens flat.

Cost \$10 plus \$2 postage and handling.

Available at meetings of the Society or from:

David Crosby,  
ENTRECS Co-ordinator,  
74 Gipps Street,  
EAST MELBOURNE, 3002  
Telephone 417 6345

Subscriptions are due at the beginning of the calendar year.  
Please pay promptly.

The Victorian Entomologist is produced at the Standards Association of Australia printery, Clunies Ross House, Parkville by Ros Church.

Deadline for the next issue is Friday 27 May.



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## DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

- Friday 15 April at 8 pm - General Meeting  
PHILIP HICKS  
INSECT PESTS IN THE GARDEN
- 20 May - Council Meeting
- 17 June - Annual General Meeting  
Presidential Address

Scientific names contained in this document are not intended for permanent scientific record, and are not published for the purposes of nomenclature within the meaning of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Article 8(b). Contributions are not refereed, and authors alone are responsible for the views expressed.



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